

# **News** from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

Matt Skinner, Public Information

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January 7, 2011

## **MEDIA ADVISORY – CORPORATION COMMISSION CHAIR DANA MURPHY OATH OF OFFICE**

(Oklahoma City) Oklahoma Corporation Commission Chair Dana Murphy will take two different oaths of office on Monday, Jan. 10.

After she and all state-elected officials beginning new terms take the “standard” oath of office at noon Monday at the State Capitol, a ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. at the Corporation Commission at which Commissioner Murphy will take the additional oath required by the Oklahoma Constitution for the office of Corporation Commissioner. The public is invited to attend. This unique oath includes many elements that speak to Oklahoma’s past and to the formidable responsibility of the Corporation Commission. A copy of the Oath can be found below.

**TIME, DATE: 3 p.m. Jan. 10, 2011**

**PLACE: Room 301 (Commissioners’ courtroom), Jim Thorpe Building, 2101 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City.**

The Commission oath of office will be administered by The Honorable Stephen P. Friot, U.S. District Judge.

Murphy began serving as a Commissioner on January 12, 2009, following election in 2008 to a short two-year term, completing the unexpired term of former Commissioner Denise Bode. On July 27, 2010, Murphy was elected to a full six-year term on the Commission in a primary election, as she faced no opponent on the general election ballot in November 2010. She became Commission Chair on January 3, 2011.

The Corporation Commission’s jurisdiction includes regulated electric, natural gas and water utilities, telephone companies, trucking and some forms of public transportation, rail crossings, oil and gas production and related environmental matters, storage and dispensing of gasoline and other motor fuels, environmental remediation of areas polluted by refined product, intrastate pipelines, and cotton gins.

(more)

**(OATH, pg. 2)**

**CONSTITUTIONAL OATH OF OFFICE – CORPORATION COMMISSIONER**

*I, (name), do solemnly swear that I am not, directly or indirectly, interested in any railroad, street railway, traction line, canal, steam boat, pipe line, car line, sleeping car line, car association, express line, telephone or telegraph line, nor in the bonds, stocks, mortgages, securities, contract or earnings of any railroad, street railway, traction line, canal, steam boat, pipe line, car line, sleeping car line, car association, express line, telephone or telegraph line; and that I will, to the best of my ability, faithfully and justly execute and enforce the provisions of this Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, and all the laws of the State of Oklahoma concerning railroads, street railways, traction lines, canals, steam boats, pipe lines, car lines, sleeping car lines, car associations, express lines, telephone and telegraph lines, compress and elevator companies, and all other corporations over which said Commission has jurisdiction.*

**-OCC-**

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**January 14, 2011**

## **MEDIA ADVISORY – Clean Line Hearing, Public Comment**

**(Oklahoma City) A hearing on the Clean Line application for treatment as a public utility is scheduled to begin before Commission Administrative Law Judge Jacqueline Miller at 1 p.m. January 19. If additional time is needed, the hearing will also be held on January 20 and 21, starting at 10 a.m. on both days. The hearing will be held in Room 301 of the Jim Thorpe Building, 2101 North Lincoln, Oklahoma City.**

**Members of the public wishing to make comment in the case may do so by phone or in person starting at 1:30 p.m. on each day of the hearing. Those wishing to make comment by telephone can call 405-521-6820. The line will open at 1:15 p.m., but again, public comment will not begin until 1:30 p.m.**

**Any questions call be addressed to the Commission Office of Public Information, 405-521-4180 or email [m.skinner@occemail.com](mailto:m.skinner@occemail.com) .**

**-OCC-**

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**February 24, 2011**

## **MEDIA ADVISORY – Clean Line Hearing, Public Comment**

**(Oklahoma City) The hearing on the Clean Line application for treatment as a public utility is scheduled to be held before Oklahoma Corporation Commission Administrative Law Judge Jacqueline Miller on March 1, 2, and 3 starting at 10 a.m. each day. On March 1 and 2, the hearing will be held in Room 301 of the Jim Thorpe Building, 2101 North Lincoln, Oklahoma City. On March 3, the hearing will be held in Courtroom B, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Jim Thorpe Building.**

**Members of the public who have not yet submitted comment in the case and wish to may do so by phone or in person starting at 1:30 p.m. on each day of the hearing. Those wishing to make comment by telephone can call 405-521-6820. The line will open at 1:15 p.m., but again, public comment will not begin until 1:30 p.m.**

**Any questions can be addressed to the Commission Office of Public Information, 405-521-4180 or email [m.skinner@occemail.com](mailto:m.skinner@occemail.com) .**

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February 24, 2011

## **A “STRONGER” PROGRAM**

### *Independent review gives high marks to OCC’s regulation of hydraulic fracturing*

(Oklahoma City) “Well-managed, professional and meeting its program objectives.” That was the conclusion of a review team comprised of representatives of environmental groups, state regulators, the oil and gas industry and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the Oklahoma Corporation Commission’s (OCC) program for regulating the oil and gas well completion technique known as hydraulic fracturing.

The review team was appointed by the State Review of Oil and Gas Environmental Regulations (STRONGER), a non-profit organization that conducts voluntary state reviews of oil and natural gas environmental regulations.

Oklahoma Corporation Commission Chair Dana Murphy said that while the review team’s overall findings are good news for Oklahoma, they also sound a note of caution.

“Our Oil and Gas Division is one of the most successful oil and gas regulatory programs in the nation, and we want to continue to be a leader,” Murphy said. “Our success means hundreds of millions of dollars a year for Oklahoma and environmental peace of mind as Oklahoma’s oil and gas resources are developed in an economic and environmentally safe manner. But that monetary and environmental success could be jeopardized if a solution isn’t found to the funding issues facing the division. STRONGER’s conclusion that a more stable source of funding must be found confirms what I have been emphasizing the past two years.”

Corporation Commission Vice Chairman Jeff Cloud said the report is further confirmation that oil and natural gas resources can be developed in an environmentally responsible manner.

“The development of horizontal drilling and the use of hydraulic fracturing in what’s called ‘unconventional production’ has unlocked vast new oil and gas reserves in Oklahoma and across America,” said Cloud. “We do not need to look any further than to what’s happening to the price at the pump to see just how important it is to increase domestic energy production. While the Commission has a key role to play in achieving that goal in Oklahoma, it has no more critical

**responsibility than protecting the state’s precious groundwater. We have done, and can continue to do both.”**

**The rest of the country wants to hear Oklahoma’s success story and learn from it, said Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Bob Anthony.**

**“As the contrived controversy over hydraulic fracturing has steadily increased in other states, so to have the invitations for Commissioners and Oil and Gas Division staff to speak to officials and citizens in other parts of the country and the world on what we do,” Anthony said. “We have had hydraulic fracturing in Oklahoma for more than 50 years and our expertise in ensuring the practice is safe is getting national and global attention. Indeed, the review team noted that several aspects of the OCC’s Oil and Gas Division and its operations merit special recognition. ”**

**The STRONGER review can be found at [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com) .**

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**All OCC advisories and releases are available at [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com)**

# **News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and the 918/539 Customer Education and Technical Committee**

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**March 3, 2011**

## **TEN DIGIT LOCAL DIALING IS COMING THIS SATURDAY**

### ***Residents and Businesses in the 918 Area Code in Oklahoma Should Be Prepared for Area Code Overlay***

The so-called "permissive" dialing in place since last August in the 918 area code to give all telephone customers time to get ready for the change in dialing local calls is about to come to an end. The permissive dialing period, during which customers could dial local calls with or without the area code, will end Saturday, March 5. **Beginning March 5**, customers within the 918 area code in the state of Oklahoma must dial ten-digits; that is, the **Area Code + Telephone Number** when making local calls.

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC), approved the addition of the 539 area code to the geographic region currently served by 918 to ensure a continuing supply of telephone numbers in the state - this is called an Area Code Overlay.

An overlay is the addition of another area code - in this case, 539 - to the same geographic region as an existing area code (918). An overlay does not require customers to change their existing area code or phone number. However, when two area codes serve the same region, rules of the Federal Communications Commission require callers to change the way they dial local calls. The new procedure requires callers to dial the area code and the seven-digit telephone number. This includes all calls that are currently dialed with just seven digits.

The most important things consumers and businesses need to know about the area code overlay are:

- If they have not already done so, customers should check with their security or alarm companies and the suppliers of their business phone systems as soon as possible to make sure their systems are programmed to handle the new dialing pattern.
- In addition to changing their dialing procedure, residents, businesses, school districts, and government offices must reprogram their automatic dialing equipment and all other types of equipment that are currently programmed with only seven-digits. All such devices will need to be reprogrammed with ten-digits (area code + telephone number) prior to March 5, 2011. Examples of programmed equipment and features include: PBX systems, electronic telephone sets, auto-dial systems, multi-line key systems, life safety systems, fax machines, internet dial-up numbers, alarm and security systems, gates, speed dialers, call forwarding settings, voicemail services, and similar functions.

- Customers' existing phone numbers in the 918 area code will not change as a result of this overlay;
- Beginning March 5, 2011, "mandatory" ten-digit local dialing begins and customers in the 918 area code must use the ten-digit dialing procedure for all local calls. As of that date, if they do not use the new dialing procedure, the calls will not be completed and a recording will instruct callers to hang up and dial again;
- Phone numbers with the new 539 area code may be assigned in some areas as soon as April 1, 2011; Customers can still request a 918 number.
- The price of a call, local and long-distance calling areas and other rates and services of your telecommunication provider will not change as a result of the Area Code Overlay. What is a local call now will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed;
- The dialing procedure for long distance or operator assisted calls will not change;
- You will still dial three digits to reach 911. If 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 and 811 are currently available in your community, or from your provider, you will still dial them with just three digits.

In addition to changing their dialing procedure, customers are encouraged to begin reprogramming their automatic dialing equipment and all other types of equipment that are currently programmed with only seven-digits. All such devices will need to be reprogrammed with ten-digits (area code + telephone number) prior to March 5, 2011.

Examples of programmed equipment and features include: PBX systems, electronic telephone sets, auto-dial systems, multi-line key systems, life safety systems, fax machines, internet dial-up numbers, alarm and security systems, gates, speed dialers, call forwarding settings, voicemail services, and similar functions.

Customers also are being urged to check with their security or alarm companies and the suppliers of their business phone systems as soon as possible to make sure their systems are programmed to handle the new dialing pattern.

For more information, please visit [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com) or contact your local service provider.

**-OCC-**

**All OCC advisories and releases are available at [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com)**

Note to editors, producers: The 918.539 Customer Education and Technical Committee is comprised of the telecommunication service providers in the 918/539 area and OCC staff.

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March 4, 2011

## **918/539 MOST FREQUENT QUESTIONS**

Here are the most frequently asked questions received by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission regarding the addition (“overlay”) of the new area code (539) to the area served by 918:

- 1) **When does 10-digit dialing start for local calls, and will my number change?**  
*No existing number will change. 10-digit dialing for local calls begins 12:01 a.m., Saturday March 5.*
- 2) **Do I need to dial a “1” before the area code when making local calls?**  
*No. Dialing a “1” before an area code is only necessary for long distance calls.*
- 3) **If I’m dialing a call with the new 539 area code, is it a long distance call?**  
*Local calling boundaries do not change. If the area you are calling was a local call before the addition of 539, it is still a local call, regardless of whether the number has an area code of 539 or 918.*
- 4) **Will I be charged for long distance if I accidentally dial a “1” before the area code when making a local call?**  
*No. The call will not go through, and you will get a message telling you that it is not necessary to dial a “1”.*
- 5) **When will we start seeing telephone numbers with the 539 area code?**  
**539 area code numbers will be assigned starting April 1, 2011.**
- 6) **Can I still get a 918 area code number after April 1?**  
*Yes, IF there are still numbers available in your area. You must request a 918 number.*
- 7) **What happens if I dial a local call with just 7 digits after the change?**  
*You will get a recording telling you to redial using the area code.*
- 8) **How will I know whether a local number is 918 or 539?**  
*All directory listings will include the area code.*

**9) What prefixes will the new area code cover?**

*The new 539 area code will cover the entire 918 area, so all prefixes within 918 are included.*

**10) Who should I call if I have a problem?**

*Contact your telephone service provider. If you have special equipment (such as a business or other entity with a PBX system, customers with auto-dialing equipment, etc), contact the equipment vendor. If you have a general question, you can contact the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC):*

**OCC Consumer Services Division: 918-581-2869 (Tulsa area), or  
1-800-522-8154 (statewide)**

**Main Commission number: 405-521-2211**

**Matt Skinner, Public Information: 405-521-4180**

**Bennett Abbott, Senior Attorney-Telecommunications: 405-521-3570**

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**March 10, 2011**

## **AN ONCOMING TRAIN**

### ***Corporation Commission takes aim at EPA plan that would hike utility bills, warns of more to come***

In response to the start of federal actions that could drastically increase utility bills, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) will provide a forum for other State agencies, electric utilities, consumer groups and all stakeholders to meet on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) newly-released, costly plan to reduce regional haze in scenic areas.

The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. March 23 at the OCC and is designed to include discussion about the numerous, expensive actions federal agencies are planning to try to impose on Oklahomans and possible courses of action.

"We issued a warning about the possibility of this EPA plan months ago," Commission Chair Dana Murphy said. "I am very disappointed the EPA failed to work with Oklahoma and disregarded the devastating impact the EPA's plan would have on Oklahoma electricity customers. Now that EPA has released its proposed mandate, we need to move quickly to respond and protect Oklahomans' pocketbooks."

Murphy warned that nationwide, utility commissions are facing a grim battle to hold the line against substantial rate increases in the face of unreasonable federal mandates.

OCC's Public Utility Division Staff currently estimates that the EPA regional haze plan will increase utility bills a minimum of 15 percent and other government mandates in the pipeline could cause bills to increase 40 percent or more.

Vice Chairman Jeff Cloud said the EPA proposal is a "call to action."

"Oklahoma had a plan in place that would have met the federal mandates without sudden price shock," Cloud said. "As the entity charged with ensuring affordable and reliable utility service to Oklahoma, the Commission will work with all the stakeholders and others in government against such misguided federal requirements."

Commissioner Bob Anthony noted no one is immune from such mandates.

"To protect utility ratepayers from wasteful multi-million dollar expenditures and unnecessary costs, the Corporation Commission should help Oklahoma follow the federal process that allows us to make public comment opposing the recently proposed EPA electric generation mandates,"

(-MORE-)

Anthony said. “Our constitutional agency can and will provide an accurate and credible analysis that the EPA should use in reconsidering its inappropriate way of dealing with laws about regional haze.”

The meeting will be held in the Commissioners’ courtroom (Room 301), Jim Thorpe Office Building, 2101 N. Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City.

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March 22, 2011

## **MEDIA ADVISORY – MEETING ON EPA “REGIONAL HAZE” PLAN**

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission will hold a meeting tomorrow – Wednesday, March 23 - at 10 a.m. on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) “regional haze” plan and its potential impact on Oklahoma utility customers.

Attorney General Scott Pruitt and other state officials, utility companies, consumer groups, and other stakeholders will attend and speak at the meeting.

The meeting will be held in Room 301 (Commissioners’ courtroom), Jim Thorpe State Office Building, 2101 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City.

Media wishing to cover the meeting are urged to arrive at least 15 minutes early, as space may be limited.

For more information on the EPA proposal and the March 23 meeting, go to <http://www.occeweb.com/pu/EPA/NOI%20Environment%20Nat%20Gas.html>.

A Commission news release issued earlier this month on the matter can be found at <http://www.occeweb.com/News/2011/03-10-11FIP.pdf>.

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**March 30, 2011**

## **MEDIA ADVISORY – MEETING ON CUSHING**

**The agenda for Thursday’s regular meeting of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission includes the following item:**

**“Discussion of whether the supply of crude oil at Cushing, Oklahoma exceeds available storage and pipeline capacity; whether any such excess supply may be resulting in ‘waste’ of crude oil, as defined at 52 O.S. Section 273; and whether such waste, if occurring, invokes the Commission’s jurisdiction pursuant to 52 O.S. Section 272, and, if so, what action, if any, may be appropriate.”**

**The meeting will be held Thursday, March 31 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 301 (Commissioners’ courtroom) at the Jim Thorpe State Office Building, 2101 North Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City.**

**-OCC-**

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**March 31, 2011**

## **MEDIA ADVISORY – 539**

**Under the plan to prevent number exhaust in the region once served only by the 918 area code, the new 539 area code may be assigned starting on April 1.**

- **It is not certain that 539 will be assigned to a number on April 1. What is known is that the first prefix that will be assigned the 539 area code is 664. A “prefix” is comprised of the 3 digits immediately following the area code.**
- **How quickly the 539 area code is assigned to other prefixes will depend on how many 918 numbers are left for a particular prefix. Many new phone numbers in the region will continue to be assigned 918 as the supply allows.**
- **Customers will always be able to request a 918 number, and will be assigned one if it is available.**
- **The “overlay” of 539 onto the region served by 918 will not change long distance boundaries. For example, a call from Broken Arrow to Tulsa will remain a local call, even if the call is from a 539 number to a 918 number.**
- **The North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) currently estimates the supply of 918 numbers will run out (“exhaust”) in the fourth quarter of 2012. This estimate is subject to change.**

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**April 11, 2011**

## **MEDIA ADVISORY – VICE CHAIRMAN JEFF CLOUD TO TESTIFY BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE**

**(Washington, DC) Oklahoma Corporation Commission Vice Chairman Jeff Cloud will testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) and its Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife at a hearing on “Natural Gas Drilling: Public Health and Environmental Impacts.”**

**The hearing will be held Tuesday, April 12 beginning at 10 a.m. in the EPW Hearing Room, 406 Dirkson, Washington, D.C.**

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**Jeff Cloud – Vice Chairman**



**Commissioner**

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April 12, 2011

For Further Information, Contact:  
Bob Vandewater (405) 521-

### AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

*Oklahoma is praised by subcommittee Chair after testimony by Commissioner Jeff Cloud on hydraulic fracturing*

(Washington, D.C.) Saying he wanted to compliment the actions taken by Oklahoma regarding regulation of hydraulic fracturing, U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-Maryland) called Oklahoma's regulation of hydraulic fracturing "a good model that should be followed by other states."

Cardin is chairman of the Senate Environmental and Public Works (EPW) Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife. His comments came after the testimony of Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Jeff Cloud today to the EPW Committee and its Subcommittee in Washington, D.C.

In his testimony, Cloud stressed and outlined the environmental protections that the Commission has developed to ensure the safe development of Oklahoma's oil and natural gas resources.

"Hydraulic fracturing has been used for over 60 years in Oklahoma, and more than 100,000 Oklahoma wells have been hydraulically fractured over that period," Cloud told Committee members. "During more than half a century of hydraulic fracturing experience, there has not been a single documented instance of contamination to groundwater or drinking water as a result of hydraulic fracturing.

"To say we take protection of our water quality seriously would be an understatement," Cloud continued. "Our rules include a general prohibition against pollution of any surface of subsurface fresh water from well completion activities."

After outlining and explaining various regulations regarding protection of water, Cloud argued that state regulation of hydraulic fracturing should be allowed to continue.

"It is worth noting that Texas is currently in court suing Oklahoma to get our state's water. We must be doing something right," said Cloud.

"All of us can agree that there need to be 'rules of the road' and that those rules need to be followed and enforced," he continued. "The issue is what works best in making sure that those rules are followed and that Oklahoma's water and our environment are protected. Oklahoma's record makes it clear that state regulation is the best way to meet those goals."

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EDITORS/PRODUCERS: In addition, here are various links you might find of use:

Vice Chair Cloud's opening statement: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VL0vwhczzMs>

Oklahoma Senator Jim Inhofe (Ranking EPW Committee member) questions Commissioner Cloud and Dave Neslin, Executive Director – Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HE0ppjWNQN0>

Commissioner Cloud's filed testimony filed is below.

**JEFF CLOUD**  
**Vice Chairman**

**OKLAHOMA**  
**CORPORATION COMMISSION**  
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TESTIMONY OF THE HONORABLE JEFF CLOUD  
OKLAHOMA CORPORATION COMMISSION  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
BEFORE THE U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC  
WORKS  
AND SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND WILDLIFE  
JOINT HEARING  
"NATURAL GAS DRILLING: PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACTS"  
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011

I very much appreciate the opportunity to testify today before the joint hearing of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife about the regulation of hydraulic fracturing and Oklahoma's many decades of experience in this regard.

Oklahoma's first commercial oil well was drilled in 1897, which was 10 years before Oklahoma officially became a state in 1907. Since then, oil and natural gas production has expanded into almost every part of the state.

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission (Commission) was first given responsibility for regulation of oil and gas production in Oklahoma in 1914. Currently, the Commission has exclusive state jurisdiction over all oil and gas industry activity in Oklahoma, including oversight and enforcement of rules aimed at pollution prevention and abatement and protecting the state's precious water supplies.

Presently, there are over 185,000 active wells in Oklahoma – roughly 115,000 oil, 65,000 gas and 10,500 injection/disposal wells – and thousands of miles of gathering and transmission pipelines.

In recent years the Woodford Shale in Oklahoma has become an important source of natural gas reserves for the nation. The development of the Oklahoma's Woodford Shale, like the other regions of shale development in the United States, has been made possible by improved horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing technologies.

Hydraulic fracturing has been used for over 60 years in Oklahoma, and more than 100,000 Oklahoma wells have been hydraulically fractured over that period. During more than half a century of hydraulic fracturing experience, there has not been a single documented instance of contamination to groundwater or drinking water as a result of hydraulic fracturing.

To say we take protection of our water quality seriously would be an understatement. Our rules are constantly reviewed and updated with protection in mind. Our rules include a general prohibition against pollution of any surface or subsurface fresh water from well completion activities.

Proper cementing and casing represent the primary means of protecting fresh water during hydraulic fracturing operations. Our agency created and continues to update a localized, detailed map of the state reflecting the base of treatable water. Prior to the start of drilling, each individual well permitted in Oklahoma is reviewed in conjunction with this map to ensure conformance with appropriate Commission rules for setting surface casing and other protections needed during drilling and completion. Production casing is required to be cemented a minimum of 200 feet above oil and gas producing zones and Commission field inspectors must be given at least 24 hours advance notice of cementing so that the inspector can witness that activity.

Commission rules address procedures in the event of unanticipated operational or mechanical changes that may be encountered during hydraulic fracturing and require the operator of the well to contact Commission officials within 24 hours of discovery of a

casing problem. In addition to that notice, immediate remedial action is also required to repair any problems with surface or production casing.

A guidance document, referred to as the Commission “Guardian Guidance” has been developed and distributed widely. It provides the incremental process that an oil and gas operator should follow to assess, remediate if necessary and close any site that would be found to impact ground water or surface water.

As previously stated, Commission rules require operators to give 24-hour notice before setting surface casing or cementing surface strings. Standard Commission rules also require an operator to submit a well completion report within 30 days after completion activities. The volumes of fluids and proppants used in any hydraulic fracturing operation are required on the form. Commission rules also allow the agency to obtain information identifying chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing or other exploration and production operations.

In August of 2010, the Commission volunteered to have its hydraulic fracturing program reviewed by a 12-year-old multi-stakeholder organization known as STRONGER, or, by its full name, State Review of Oil & Natural Gas Environmental Regulations. The Oklahoma oil and gas regulatory program had undergone three successful prior reviews.

From October 2010 through January 2011, a seven-person, multi-stakeholder review team appointed by STRONGER conducted an in-depth examination of Oklahoma’s hydraulic regulatory program. The review team included Leslie Savage of the Texas Railroad Commission; Wilma Subra, of Subra Company of New Iberia, Louisiana (and a noted critic of the domestic oil and gas industry); and Jim Collins of the Independent Petroleum Association of America. The official observers included the Oklahoma Sierra Club and the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region VI.

The review team concluded that the Oklahoma program is, overall, well managed, professional and meets its program objectives. Incidentally, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy have provided grant funding to STRONGER to support its activities.

I would also note that in Oklahoma, collaboration involving the regulated oil and gas industry, other stakeholders and my state agency’s Staff have repeatedly led to successful development of rules and policies to address environmental protection issues, particularly the protection of water.

An example: In 2008 the Commission modified and expanded rules over oil and gas industry activity to control runoff of soil and dissolved minerals and chlorides into the watershed that feeds two vital southeast Oklahoma lakes.

The two particular lakes that I mentioned – Lake Atoka and McGee Creek Reservoir – are exceptionally clean and provide very high quality water to the City of Oklahoma City about 100 miles away. But the lakes also are on top of deep rock deposits that hold huge amounts of natural gas, which, in the best interest of Oklahoma and the nation, we want to allow the petroleum industry to develop and produce.

The rules established in 2008 replaced out-dated 1985 field rules that were developed at a time when there was much less oil and gas industry activity in that part of the state. The new rules were hammered out over several meetings involving representatives of Oklahoma City's water utility division, the oil and gas industry, rural water districts, counties, tribal governments, our agency's regulatory enforcement Staff and other stakeholders.

These revised rules modified requirements for setbacks (buffer zones) from lakes, retaining walls or berms around wellsites, pit liners and operations for muds and fluids used and produced during drilling operations and for other requirements to provide flexibility needed by industry while increasing protection of water resources.

Such rules allow the oil and gas industry to continue to pursue its important goal of finding and producing critical natural energy resources, while also providing added measures to ensure the quality of lake waters and environment are protected.

Moreover, each year, the Commission conducts a detailed rulemaking process where Commission rules are reviewed and revised on an ongoing basis to keep up with changing technology, statutes and environmental concerns. Notice is given to the public and all interested stakeholders through published newspaper notices and posted open meetings. Our staff of experienced geologists, hydrologists and others are continually involved in this rulemaking process in addition to regularly working with the public and landowners to address potential environmental concerns.

Without the need for any federal intervention, the City of Oklahoma City, the regulated oil and gas industry and the State worked together to come up with acceptable protections because we all continue to recognize it is in our mutual best interest to ensure proper and practical water and environmental protections without cutting off access to critical resources.

Nature by itself unfortunately did not bless Oklahoma with any natural large bodies of water, so fresh water is especially precious in my state. Oklahoma has more than 50 man-made lakes. It is worth noting that Texas is currently in court suing Oklahoma to get our state's water. We must be doing something right.

All of us can agree that there need to be "rules of the road" and that those rules need to be followed and enforced. The issue is what works best in making sure that those rules are followed and that Oklahoma's water and our environment are protected. Oklahoma's record makes it clear that state regulation is the best way to meet those goals.

I and my two fellow Commissioners hold elected positions. We are directly accountable to our fellow Oklahomans. We have both a vested and personal interest in ensuring our water is protected. After all, and not to be trite, we drink the water, too.

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**News from Commissioner Dana Murphy**

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For Further Information, Contact: Teryl Williams  
(405) 521- 2267

April 13, 2011

**“CAN DO” RESULTS IN IMPROVEMENTS FOR OIL AND GAS STAKEHOLDERS IN  
OKLAHOMA**

*Oklahoma Corporation Commission Chair Dana Murphy praises signing of energy reform  
measure, says OCC is ready for the challenge*

Calling it a result of what can happen when challenges are met with a “can do” attitude, Commission Chair Dana Murphy today praised Governor Fallin for signing HB 1909, a bill that changes Oklahoma’s oil and gas law to take into account technological advances and its impact on oil and gas stakeholders.

“When Governor Fallin first took office, she issued a challenge to officials and agencies to tell her what could be done, rather than what couldn’t,” said Murphy. “This is a perfect example of that. While I held town hall meetings around the state to gather input on this issue and did other work on the matter before the Governor took office, her support of the idea that we could bring this about was vitally important.

“I am pleased and proud to have been part of this nine-month-long collaborative effort to ensure that Oklahoma’s natural resources continue to be developed while protecting all mineral owners’ and other stakeholders’ rights,” Murphy continued. “It was an honor to serve as the facilitator and coordinate this effort with industry, mineral owners and others to make this bill a reality. Attorney John Reeves and mineral rights expert and attorney Terry Stowers deserve special recognition for all their hard work in this matter.”

Murphy said the bill will help all of Oklahoma, and thanked the sponsors of the 2011 Shale Reservoir Development Act, Rep. Mike Jackson of Enid and Sen. Cliff Branan of Oklahoma City.

“This isn’t ‘just’ an oil and gas matter,” Murphy said. “Keeping Oklahoma’s oil and gas industry competitive with other states and protecting stakeholders means millions of dollars for Oklahoma schools, roads, and many other things as production of our shale gas resources grows. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission is working hard to make certain the agency is ready to deal

efficiently with the cases I anticipate will be filed at the Commission as a result of this legislation."

**-OCC-**

**All OCC advisories and releases are available at [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com)**

# **News** from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

**Matt Skinner, Public Information**

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August 5, 2011

## **CONSERVE AND PROTECT**

### ***Corporation Commission urges Oklahomans to take action to bolster system reliability and save on electric bills***

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission is urging Oklahomans to take steps that can reduce the strain on the state's electric infrastructure during the heat wave.

"The record heat wave has caused a record demand for electricity," Commission Chair Dana Murphy said. "It's no surprise that there is an enormous strain on the entire infrastructure, but there are some fairly simple steps we can all take to help ease that strain and save on electric costs at the same time."

Commission Vice Chair Jeff Cloud said that while regulated electric utilities are required to have spare capacity in order to meet demand, reducing electric usage whenever possible is always a good plan of action.

"Just as cars fall victim to the weather and demand, so too can electric generation units and the other items that make up our electric infrastructure," noted Cloud. "By saving electricity, we are playing a role in making sure that should things go wrong, the system will still be able to meet our needs. Taken together, what seem like small steps can add up to big savings for a customer and a large reduction in the strain on the electric infrastructure."

Commissioner Bob Anthony noted that Oklahoma is better positioned today to handle unanticipated demand or equipment outages.

"The Corporation Commission has been working with the utilities to implement reliability hardening measures to handle equipment outages, to ensure that adequate generation reserves are available within Oklahoma, and to integrate with the regional transmission grid to enable power to be imported into Oklahoma from outside the state, if needed," Anthony said. "In the future, as Oklahoma utilities implement Corporation Commission-approved SmartGrid technologies, even more capability will be available to handle outages and unanticipated demand."

Here are some steps consumers can take to help reduce electric use during the heat wave:

- 1) Remember to adjust your thermostat to a higher setting to reduce air conditioning demand when the home isn't occupied, or when you might not otherwise need a lower setting, such as while sleeping. A programmable thermostat can allow you to automate such changes.

(-MORE-)

- 2) Use fans to supplement air conditioning. This may enable you to raise your thermostat. However, be sure to turn the fans off when you leave the room.
- 3) Even if you had your central air conditioning unit cleaned and serviced at the start of summer, check to be sure your outside unit and the system's inside air return filters are clean. With the record heat, units have been running much more than normal, and therefore may need filter changes and cleaning more frequently.
- 4) If possible, enter and exit your home through a door that doesn't open directly into your living space. For example, if you have an attached garage, use it to enter and leave your home. This can help lessen the amount of heat that comes into your home and the amount of air conditioned air that escapes.
- 5) Whenever possible, restrict dishwasher, washing machine and dryer use to the evening and overnight hours, when overall demand on the system is less.
- 6) If using air conditioning, make sure all doors and windows are closed. Storm doors alone cannot stop as much air migration as having the storm door and the main door both closed.
- 7) Insulate where possible and needed. CAUTION: Even in normal temperatures, attics can get dangerously hot. Do not go into your attic during this heat wave.
- 8) Be on the lookout for unnecessary electrical use (unneeded lights left on, televisions and other electric devices left on but not being used, etc). Note that even when switched off, there are devices (such as televisions) that continue to draw power. Such devices are best plugged into a power strip which can then be switched off.

Also, PSO offers energy efficiency programs approved by the Commission . Information about these programs can be accessed at [www.psoklahoma.com/save/programs/?ctype=b](http://www.psoklahoma.com/save/programs/?ctype=b).

-OCC-

All OCC advisories and releases are available at [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com)

(-MORE-)

# **News** from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

**Matt Skinner, Public Information**

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August 10, 2011

## **PLANNING TO DIG? CALL 8-1-1 FIRST**

*Corporation Commission joins with counterparts in other states to remind you to call before you dig*

This Thursday — August 11 (8-11) — is being used as a reminder in Oklahoma and other states of the importance for you to call to check for buried utility and other lines before you dig. Oklahomans can choose two ways to check by telephone through the Call Okie system: 1-800-522-OKIE, or 8-1-1.

Oklahoma has thousands of miles of buried pipeline and utility cable. Whether you're planning on digging one hole or one hundred, digging without first contacting Call Okie puts you at risk for serious injury and could result in major damage to critical utility service.

Many people wrongly think that they should only check if they are digging a deep hole. Lines can be accidentally damaged as a result of digging relatively shallow holes, such as those for planting a small tree or a mailbox post. Erosion, soil shifting, and other factors can change how close a line is to the surface.

One call is all it takes to set the wheels in motion for having all underground utility lines properly marked before all you dig. Again, the number to call is 1-800-522-OKIE or 8-1-1.

For more information, visit [www.callokie.com](http://www.callokie.com)

-OCC-

All OCC advisories and releases are available at [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com)



**Contact: Bob Vandewater (405) 521-2264**  
[b.vandewater@occemail.com](mailto:b.vandewater@occemail.com)

August 15, 2010

## **A Leadership Role for Oklahoma in Electricity Policy**

*Corporation Commission Vice Chairman Jeff Cloud assumes leadership post in Regional State Committee*

Oklahoma Corporation Commission Vice Chairman Jeff Cloud has been elected Vice President of the Southwest Power Pool's (SPP) Regional State Committee (RSC), a group that has a critical advisory role regarding the future of the region's electric power grid and electrical service.

Cloud says the RSC now faces critical issues that will have a major impact on electric service and the consumer.

"There are currently federal proposals to promote investment in new electric transmission that could have a major impact on our electric bills," Cloud said. "There is concern that proposed federal rules on air emissions could mean a huge extra burden on a regional transmission network that already faces congestion at times. The RSC must determine how to respond to these issues.

"In addition, both in and outside Oklahoma, utilities and their customers want access to the wind power that is being developed in such wind-rich areas as western Oklahoma. But that will require not only the hundreds of millions of dollars in electric transmission projects already approved in the SPP region, but the projects that are in the planning stages as well. Where best to locate those projects, how to spread the costs through the region and allocate and assign construction responsibilities will continue to be a challenge for the RSC," Cloud added. "Transmission planning is a long-term process and requires understanding of electric utility demand forecasts and projections with regard to regulatory and environmental implications, policies and more. The SPP and RSC not only must focus on transmission system needs for the next few years, but must also project out 10 to 20 years to develop ideas to address issues looming on the horizon."

Cloud noted the RSC is focused on cooperation between states in the region as they face the difficult task of determining what is best for their citizens.

"The RSC in no way diminishes the authority of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and its counterparts in other states to separately address at the state level those electric generation and transmission cost issues that remain within its jurisdiction," Cloud said.

*(more)*

The SPP Regional State Committee provides collective state regulatory agency input to the Southwest Power Pool on matters of regional importance related to the development and operation of bulk electric transmission. The RSC is comprised of utility regulatory commissioners from Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Cloud has served on the Regional State Committee for 4 years.



# **News** from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

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August 29, 2011

## **SAVINGS IN THE PIPELINE**

### ***Corporation Commission orders credit, cost savings for OG&E customers***

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) today issued an order directing Oklahoma Gas and Electric (OG&E) to give its customers a credit totaling \$4.2 million on their bills next month, and savings totaling an additional \$3 million for the period of October 2011 to April 2013.

The order will result in a September bill reduction of approximately \$3.15 for the average residential OG&E ratepayer, while General Service customers will see an average reduction of \$4.27.

Commission Chair Dana Murphy said the action is the result of concerns over OG&E's extension of a contract with its pipeline subsidiary, Enogex.

"OG&E and Enogex had a competitively-bid contract to transport natural gas to OG&E plants. While the contract was approved by the Commission in 2003, in 2009 OG&E extended the contract without a new review by the Commission," Murphy explained. "The OCC's Public Utility Division, the Oklahoma Attorney General and the Oklahoma Industrial Energy Consumers (OIEC) quite correctly raised objections to that action."

Commission Vice Chair Jeff Cloud said the order also includes safeguards for ratepayers.

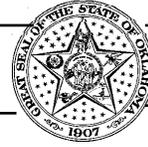
"Under the order there will be an independent review of OG&E's future natural gas transportation and storage needs to determine the lowest reasonable cost alternative for the period beginning May of 2013," Cloud said. "The Commission will review the alternatives next year, and make a determination to be sure the ratepayers are not paying more than necessary."

Commissioner Bob Anthony said that utility companies contracting with their own subsidiaries presents some of the most difficult and controversial issues faced by regulators.

"Today's order results from the Corporation Commission's vigilance in conducting annual fuel reviews to protect Oklahoma ratepayers," Anthony said.

**-OCC-**

All OCC advisories and releases are available at [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com)



**Contact: Jeff Cloud (405) 521-2264**

September 1, 2011

## **Statement of Commissioner Jeff Cloud**

It is with mixed emotions that I announce that I will resign my position as Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner in order to pursue opportunities in the private sector.

This decision has certainly not been an easy one. It has been my personal privilege and honor to serve on the Commission for more than eight years. In that time, many positive changes have been implemented that affect industries the Commission regulates. The issues that Commissioners and the agency's staff tackle every day continue to grow in complexity. However, what certainly has not changed is the commitment of this agency to the public and industry to ensure the economy of Oklahoma continues to develop in a way that benefits both the consumer and the businesses we oversee and that treats citizens and regulated entities fairly.

I especially want to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the people of Oklahoma for their support and for allowing me to serve and to the employees of the Commission and my fellow Commissioners for their hard work and commitment to excellence. On a personal note, I want to thank my family. I could not have done this without them.

I will be working closely with Governor Mary Fallin as she prepares to name my successor and to see that the transition period goes smoothly and the Commission's critical work will continue without interruption.



# **News** from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

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September 12, 2011

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### *Commission approves Dana Murphy for post on Regional State Committee*

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission today unanimously approved Commission Chair Dana Murphy to represent Oklahoma on the Southwest Power Pool's (SPP) Regional State Committee (RSC).

Murphy will succeed Commission Vice Chairman Jeff Cloud, who has served on the RSC for four years. Cloud recently announced his resignation from the Corporation Commission.

The SPP Regional State Committee provides collective state regulatory agency input to the Southwest Power Pool on matters of regional importance related to the development and operation of bulk electric transmission. The RSC is comprised of utility regulatory commissioners from Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

-OCC-

All OCC advisories and releases are available at [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com)

# **News** from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

**Matt Skinner, Public Information**

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**September 20, 2011**

## **MAKING A CONNECTION**

### ***Corporation Commission urges federal action and offers assistance on call termination problem***

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) is joining with counterparts in other states in calling for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to address problems that are preventing telephone calls from being completed.

The OCC has now sent a letter to the FCC supporting a National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) resolution to investigate the issue and pursue a solution.

There has been a growing number of complaints in Oklahoma and other states from both telephone customers and their service providers regarding so-called "call termination" problems. Based on complaints, the problem appears to involve long distance calls made from a wireline, cellular phone or internet-based telephone service. The problem can take several forms, including:

- The caller believes the phone being called is ringing because he gets the normal ring sound, but in fact the called phone is not ringing, and the call has not been completed.
- The called phone does ring, but the party called hears nothing on the line when the call is answered.

The vast majority of the complaints related to this issue involve long distance calls made to telephone customers in rural areas. The rural telephone companies' equipment and practices do not appear to be responsible for such instances.

Rural trade associations from across the country have told the FCC that complaints regarding call completion problems were up over 2,000 percent from March 2010 to April 2011.

Because of call termination complaints from Oklahoma telephone companies and their customers, the OCC is conducting its own inquiry into the matter. The first meeting with companies and customers was held September 7. The OCC's Public Utility Division is gathering data as well as company and customer feedback as it continues to investigate the matter, and plans to share its findings with the FCC in an effort to help find a resolution to this nationwide problem.

**-OCC-**

**NOTE: The letter to the FCC and the NARUC resolution are attached.**

**All OCC advisories and releases are available at [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com)**

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September 13, 2011

Theresa Z. Cavanaugh  
Margaret Dailey  
Investigations and Hearings Division  
Enforcement Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Support for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC)  
Resolution on Call Termination

On July 27, 2011, by unanimous vote, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) expressed its support, adoption and endorsement of the enclosed NARUC Resolution of July 20, 2011, regarding Federal/State joint efforts to address and resolve call termination issues.

Oklahoma has experienced a variety of call termination issues as have other states. This problem appears to occur on calls originating on various technologies including landline, wireless, cable and voice over internet protocol and involves multiple jurisdictions. The OCC has received complaints from Oklahoma telecommunications carriers and end-users who have experienced difficulties and are attempting to correct the problem to no avail.

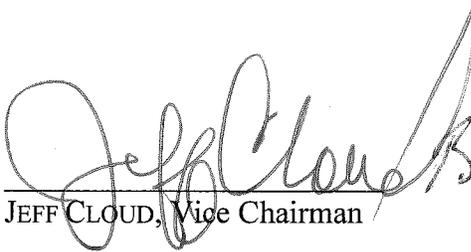
The OCC urges the FCC to take steps to resolve this nationwide problem. The OCC is committed to assisting in this endeavor and, therefore, has begun holding public meetings to which the telecommunications industry and all interested persons are invited to participate. The first meeting was held Wednesday, September 7, 2011, and was essentially an information gathering, brainstorming and planning session. As further details and data regarding this issue are obtained in Oklahoma, we will keep you apprised.

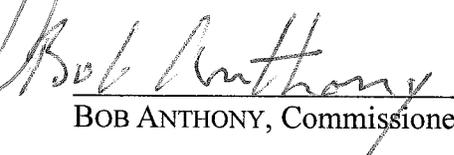
We strongly encourage the FCC to pursue this matter to a successful resolution.

Regards,

Oklahoma Corporation Commission

  
DANA MURPHY, Chair

  
JEFF CLOUD, Vice Chairman

  
BOB ANTHONY, Commissioner

:jb

Enclosure

*Resolution on Federal/State Joint Efforts to Address and Resolve Call Termination Issues*

**WHEREAS**, The Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) is a series of interconnected networks operated by multiple providers; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The value of the PSTN requires the ability of end users to make and receive calls regardless of their location; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has unequivocally stated in its Declaratory Ruling and Order, WC Docket No. 07-135, DA 07-2863, released June 28, 2007 at paragraph 6, "that no carriers, including interexchange carriers, may block, choke, reduce or restrict traffic in any way"; *and*.

**WHEREAS**, The FCC has also acknowledged in footnote 20 of the Call Blocking Declaratory Order that exceptions to its no-blocking and no-call choking policy are permitted only under "rare and limited circumstances;" *and*

**WHEREAS**, The FCC has in recent years taken prompt steps to address perceived or actual blocking of calls and other problems associated with the routing and transmittal of traffic across a wide variety of networks, including Voice over Internet Protocol calls and Internet access; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The failure to complete calls is having a significant negative impact on consumers and interstate commerce throughout the country; *and*

**WHEREAS**, A recent letter sent by various Rural Trade Associations to the FCC's Investigations and Hearings Division of the Enforcement Bureau outlines recent and continuing call completion issues and notes that from prior to 2008 to mid-April 2011, over 10,000 consumer call completion complaints have been reported to the Rural Trade Association members with the number of complaints increasing over 2,000% during the April 2010 to March 2011 time frame; *and*

**WHEREAS**, A growing number of State commissions have begun their own investigations of the call termination issues that have been raised in each of their States; *and*

**WHEREAS**, One Hundred and Seventy Six rural incumbent local exchange companies in 35 States have reported having call termination issues for both voice calls and faxes; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The call termination issues manifest themselves in several ways such as, but not limited to, the calling party hears ringing but the called party hears nothing, the called party's phone rings but hears dead air when the call is answered, the calling party hears a fast busy, where there are unusually long call set-up times or there is the use of a call intercept messages, or the called party receives a display of incorrect Caller ID information; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Suspected causes of the reported call completion issues include, but are not necessarily limited to, originating carriers failing to ensure transiting providers they route traffic to for termination comply with industry standards and guidelines, the improper use of least cost

routing arrangements where routing tables are not updated and/or where certain entities specifically decline to terminate traffic to generally higher cost rural areas; *and*

**WHEREAS**, To date, there has been no demonstration by providers or other entities that the call termination issues fit within the “rare and limited” exceptions to the FCC’s no-call blocking and no-call choking policies enunciated in the Call Blocking Declaratory Order; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Call termination issues create negative public interest by adversely impacting State and interstate commerce, reducing State and federal tax revenues, degrading the quality of the PSTN, and adding risks to public health and safety; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Call termination issues are antithetical to the public interest by creating confusion, isolation and frustration on the part of called parties and calling parties; *now, therefore be it*

**RESOLVED**, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2011 Summer Committee Meetings in Los Angeles, California, encourages the FCC to reaffirm its decision in its Call Blocking Declaratory Order, “that no carriers, including interexchange carriers, may block, choke, reduce or restrict traffic in any way”; *and be it further*

**RESOLVED**, That the FCC expand its earlier finding that all providers comply with industry standards and best practices when routing traffic thereby not interfering with the quality of the transmission; *and be it further*

**RESOLVED**, That the FCC and State commissions take all appropriate actions to protect consumers by immediately addressing the call terminating issues that exist.

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*Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications  
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors July 20, 2011*

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# News

from **Corporation Commissioner Patrice Douglas**



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Contact: Bob Vandewater or Lisa Roberts  
(405) 521-2264

October 14, 2011

## **MEDIA ADVISORY: OATH OF OFFICE**

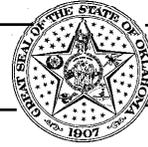
A formal Oath of Office ceremony for Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Patrice Douglas will be held Monday, October 17 at 4:30 p.m. in the Oklahoma State Senate chambers, Oklahoma Capitol.

Governor Fallin will be speaking at the event.

-OCC-

(All OCC news releases and advisories are available at [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com))

OKLAHOMA  
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## News from Dana Murphy, Chair

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**Contact: Teryl Williams (405) 521-2267**

October 27, 2011

### **Corporation Commission Chair Dana Murphy elected to regional leadership post**

Oklahoma Corporation Commission Chair Dana Murphy has been elected Secretary Treasurer of the Southwest Power Pool's (SPP) Regional State Committee (RSC), a group that has a critical advisory role regarding the future of the region's electric power grid and electrical service.

Murphy said the RSC is involved in power transmission projects and other issues that will have a major impact on electric service and consumers in Oklahoma and surrounding states.

"There are billions of dollars in planned and proposed projects for our region's electric grid," Murphy said. "These projects raise not only the question of impact on electric service and cost, but many other issues as well, including regulatory and environmental. At the same time, the SPP and RSC must be looking years ahead in order to anticipate and cooperatively address the region's futures issues and needs."

The SPP Regional State Committee provides regulatory agency input from all states in the region to the Southwest Power Pool on matters related to the development and operation of bulk electric transmission. The RSC is comprised of utility regulatory commissioners from Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.



# **News** from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

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**October 28, 2011**

## **UN(LAND)LOCKING OKLAHOMA ENERGY**

### *Corporation Commission approves public utility status for multibillion dollar transmission project*

Calling it a step toward making Oklahoma a literal powerhouse for other states, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) today approved public utility status for the Plains & Eastern Clean Line (Clean Line) transmission project. The \$3.5 billion project will deliver wind power supplemented by natural gas-fired generation from the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles to southeastern states.

Oklahoma Corporation Commission Chair Dana Murphy said the project will pay big dividends for Oklahoma.

“Oklahoma’s abundant wind resources provide the possibility of additional income from royalties for Oklahoma farmers, ranchers and other landowners. Good wages will be available from construction jobs as the power line is built, and more wages will be paid to Oklahomans for the permanent jobs needed to operate the line and its related facilities,” Murphy said. “All-in-all, the evidence in this case showed Clean Line will have an impact on our state surpassing \$4 billion.”

Murphy said today’s action brings openness and oversight to the project.

“By finding that Plains and Eastern Clean Line LLC is a public utility, the Corporation Commission has assured Clean Line will provide reports on its progress and plans for the project which will be available for public inspection,” Murphy said. “Because of Clean Line’s unique nature, this finding was reached only after hard thought, much legal research and the input of parties with diverse interests who intervened in the case. The Commission has directed its Public Utility Division to develop new regulations to cover this new type of situation. We expect the rules providing for closer regulation of Clean Line and other transmission-only utilities to be ready for legislative approval during the upcoming legislative session.

“It’s important to note what the Commission’s decision did not do,” Murphy added. “It did not provide Clean Line with authority to exercise the power of eminent domain over any parcel of land. The power to decide whether Clean Line may take any real property after proper payment is in the hands of the district courts.”

(more)

(Clean Line, pg 2)

Oklahoma Corporation Commission Vice Chair Bob Anthony noted the impact of the project will encompass more than wind power.

“In terms of new jobs, infrastructure investment and the future of electricity generation using both wind and natural gas, Oklahoma can receive multi-billion dollar economic benefits from the development of this electric transmission line,” Anthony said. “The project will help reduce American reliance on foreign energy. Not only is the wind power ‘made in Oklahoma,’ so too is the natural gas power that will power generators needed to fully utilize the transmission line capacity available when the wind does not blow.”

The Clean Line transmission line will have a capacity of 7,000 megawatts. Financing for the line will come from private capital, not Oklahoma ratepayers. The company is currently working on receiving approval from the other states involved in the project. The Clean Line case began in June of 2010.

Commissioner Patrice Douglas, who took office on October 10, did not vote in the case.

-OCC-

All OCC advisories and releases are available at [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com)

# **News** from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

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November 15, 2011

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

*Commission Chair Dana Murphy to testify in Washington, D.C on hydraulic fracturing*

Oklahoma Commission Chair Dana Murphy will testify before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment regarding state regulation of hydraulic fracturing. The hearing will be held Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. (CST), in 2167 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. It can be viewed live at <http://transportation.house.gov>.

The Subcommittee's news release on the hearing can be found at <http://transportation.house.gov/news/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1451>

**OCC-**

All OCC advisories and releases are available at [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com)

# **News** from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

**Matt Skinner, Public Information**

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December 9, 2011

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission will meet Monday (12-12-11) with officials from the Commission's Oil and Gas division, Oklahoma Geological Survey and Tidelands Geophysical on planned seismic studies in the Prague area.

The meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' courtroom (Room 301), Jim Thorpe Building, 2101 North Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City.

The media is welcome to attend.

**-OCC-**

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# **News** from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

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December 12, 2011

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

The OG&E rate case will be heard by an Oklahoma Corporation Commission administrative law judge beginning tomorrow (December 13) at 10 a.m. in room 301, Jim Thorpe Building, 2101 North Lincoln, Oklahoma City. Public comment will be taken at 1:30 p.m. each day of the hearing. The period December 13 through December 22 (weekdays only) has been designated for the hearing, and if additional time is needed, the hearing will resume on January 3. However, the entire time period currently scheduled may not be needed.

NOTE: After the hearing is concluded the administrative law judge will submit a report and recommendation on the matter to the Commissioners. The Commissioners will make the final decision in the case. There is currently no set date for the report.

The public can review all the filed testimony and evidence in the OG&E case at [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com)

### **Background:**

OG&E is requesting a rate increase of approximately \$73.2 million.

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission Public Utility Division is recommending a rate decrease of approximately \$4 million.

Other parties to the case have also filed rate recommendations.

-OCC-

All OCC advisories and releases are available at [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com)